

THE OLDTIMER

Volume 32, Number 3

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

October, 1997

We have a date

NOVEMBER

■ **November 16.** The annual meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Schmidt House. It's open to all members and this year will include a volunteer recognition segment. The program also has the announcement of 1998 officers and awards. Please note that this year the meeting will NOT be a potluck. We'll have light refreshments. Bring a white elephant gift worth at least \$5 for a silent auction fundraiser.

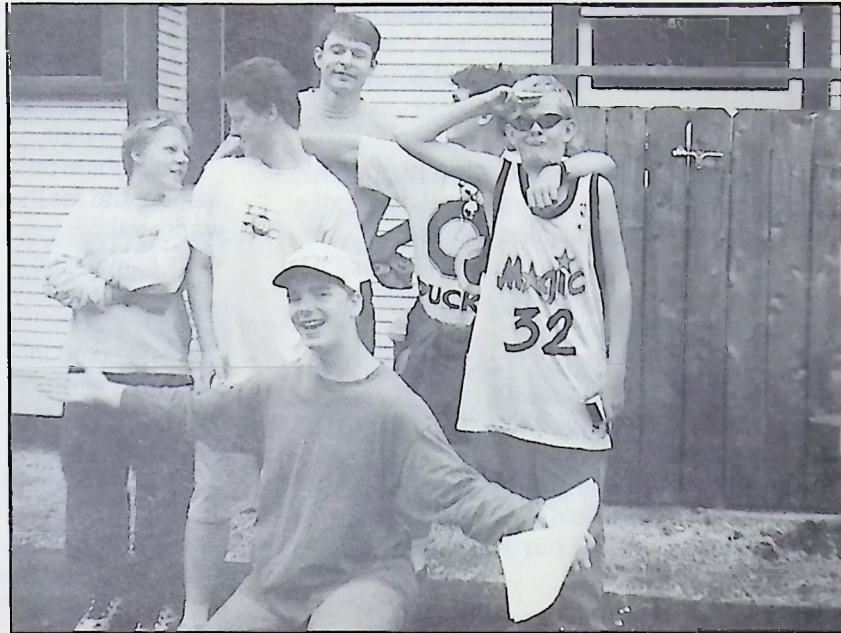
DECEMBER

■ **All month.** The bookshop is stocked for your gift-giving needs including holiday wreaths, books and gift memberships that make great stocking stuffers and support the society at the same time.

■ **December 13.** The Schmidt House will be open as part of the annual Three Rivers Community Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Home Tour this year between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Several other homes will be on the tour, which costs \$5 and benefits the hospital. Tea will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rogue Valley Retirement Center on A St.

■ **December 13.** Our second annual holiday bake sale will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the research library. AND the society will have a booth at the GPHS holiday bazaar all day.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.



Volunteers get a rare chance to goof off between chores over the summer.

Teen volunteers spend summer at society through Job Council

If you've noticed a different look and some improvements at the society, it's due in part to a Job Council program, the Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which landed us five young men to work for eight weeks this summer.

The library collections are out of the barn storage and in their permanent location in the new library building thanks to the work crew that included Steve Garten, Willie Dowdy, Dale Selvick, Josh Headley, Jeremy Badley and their supervisor, David Eye.

Now, once the city's handicapped accessibility requirements are met, the building will be able to officially open to

the public.

Besides the August move, the crew cleaned and organized the barn storage areas, painted the fences, yard equipment and porches and inventoried many of our boxes in storage.

Under the supervision of Nancy and Ray Campbell of Zodiac Gardens, who keep up our gardens, they also created new garden areas and walkways in the Schmidt House yard with materials graciously donated by Copeland.

The crew also tended the Merlin Apple Tree during the summer where they weeded, picked apples and painted the

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Letters to the editor

Dear Mike Oaks and historical society:

Thank you for your participation in and the presentation of the plaque at the Williams General Store Centennial Celebration on Sept. 21, 1997, in Williams. Thank you for your interest in the Williams Community.

The Williams Centennial Committee

To JCHS:

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your contribution. Your basket of history-related books and other items helped make our auction a success..

Boys & Girls Club of Grants Pass

Dear Beverly, Marilyn and Rose:

Our senior tour group of Roseburg gives you many thanks for your special tour for our group.

The Schmidt House is a beautiful old home and the furnishings were interesting to see.

The tour guides were very good and friendly. We must apologize for the mix-up in time and day. Thanks again.

Dick Trotter and all our Roseburg Seniors

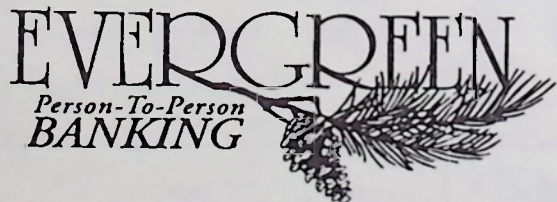
Research Library Staffers:

Thank you for all of your interest and assistance in my research for the criminology department of Eastern Washington University. The response to my inquiries has been wonderful and the materials and photographs I received regarding old jails and prostitution were fantastic.

Being involved in a research project covering 265 counties in 8 states, I am very aware of the time and energy a project like this requires. That's why I am doubly thankful that you took the time to provide me with valuable information about your county from your archives and resources.

Thank you again for your overwhelming response to my request.

**Emily M. Matthias
Eastern Washington University**



969 SE Sixth St., Grants Pass 541/479-3351

Volunteers continued from page 1

fences for Marilyn Luttrell, who manages the historic site.

"They presented me with this certificate because I kept them supplied with goodies," says Executive Director Rose Scott with a laugh. "Including apple crisp made from the apples they picked at the Haines Apple Tree."

The certificate also says, "for outstanding cooperation" besides "and delicious baked goods," however.

The boys helped Scott with "The Tales of Hathaway Jones," part of the Tall Tale Tellin' event held this summer for the first time.

While these tasks improved the society, we provided a training site for them to learn new skills and experience the work environment — including Pay Check Day (minimum wage paid by the Job Council).

On their last day at the society, the guys were recognized for their accomplishments with a picnic lunch attended by staff and board members who worked with them. Each was awarded a certificate of recognition by President-Elect Joan Momsen and a historical society silver round as a token of our appreciation for their efforts.

This summer 140 youths worked under the auspices of the Job Council's youth program. Other crews worked at the Siskiyou National Forest, the Josephine County Fairgrounds and many worked individually with non-profit organizations.

THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society,
512 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.
(541) 479-7827



Annual dues are \$15 and include a subscription.



Edith Decker — editor

Lee Ann Tardieu — publishing committee chairman



The quarterly circulation of The Oldtimer is 550.
The publishing committee also produces an annual historical publication, mailed free of charge to all members of the society.

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In the community

■ **LIVING HISTORY ACTORS PERFORM.** October's Heritage Days presented a great opportunity for the society to interpret history. One event was held Oct. 4 when our living history actors portrayed some of the characters from Grants Pass in the historical district. An added attraction this year was a group headed by Linda Beauchamp, director of the Grants Pass Visitors and Convention Bureau. They portrayed colorful pioneer characters, including several "naughty ladies" or "soiled doves," two of the more civil names for prostitutes from that era.

■ **CEMETERY TOUR AND STORIES A HALLOWEEN HIT.** Marilyn Luttrell coordinated the tours of the historic Oddfellows cemetery by horse-drawn wagon for dozens of tourists on Oct. 25. Mollie Means arranged for a group of surprise living history appearances from beyond the grave (and the gravestones) with some research help from Dennis Hotchkiss, who appeared as Nathan Dodge, a former postmaster who's resting in peace at the cemetery. The tour groups were treated to stories about the many other historic cemeteries in Josephine County and environs by Edith

Decker at the Schmidt House before being sent on their way. Meanwhile, Lee Ann Tardieu and volunteers supplied guests with refreshments.

■ **AUTHOR PRESENTS CLASS AT HISTORY CENTER.** Larry McLane led a class at the LDS Family History Center for their annual genealogy seminar. His class was about using the historical society as a source for genealogical information on Oct. 18. Larry is also scheduled to give a talk to the Rotary Club on Northern Josephine County history, a subject he knows well, having written "First There Was Twogood," a pictorial history of that area.

■ **BOARD MEMBER MEETS WITH QUESTORS.** Marilyn Luttrell met with the Questors group, known for their identification and tours of historic homes in town. Marilyn discussed and answered questions about the historical society programs and services, the new library and the Schmidt House. Ann Pickell, treasurer of the Questors, responded with a generous donation to the society from that group.

You've noticed the pamphlet ...

Here's an update from the publishing committee

By now you've noticed that your Oldtimer is a bit heavier than usual. Inside you'll find our first pamphlet, a run-down on some of the historical towns in Josephine County. This is meant to be a brief historical guideline and the first in what we hope will be a series of publications — one pamphlet each year — of useful and interesting information about the history of our county on a variety of topics.

After much consideration, the publishing committee came to the conclusion that these pamphlets would provide much more information than the calendars, which traditionally constituted our fifth publication of each year (after the four Oldtimer newsletters).

At first, we had thought of doing a quilt calendar for this

year and had some kind quilt-owning souls offer their historical quilts to be part of the calendar. We apologize that the plan changed. However, that's a subject we might consider for a future pamphlet — and we'll get a lot more information in such a publication than we would a calendar, besides.

We hope you enjoy the pamphlet. If you'd like to purchase more, they make great stocking stuffers and are available at the historical society's bookshop for \$5 each.

Please feel free to drop off topic ideas for upcoming pamphlets as well.

Finally, the last Oldtimer will be a holiday issue, set to publish in December.

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Mystery photo: This photo is of the turn-of-the-century Grants Pass firemen. We only know one name. Do any look familiar?



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From the collection

Seeing the sites

"From the collection" features interesting items in the care of the society. Some may be recent acquisitions or some may be long held by the society.

This stereoscope, also called a steropticon, sits in the Schmidt House parlor, the room where it would have been found in many homes in the 1900s. It's a favorite with young visitors, who sometimes pick it up for a look when one of our volunteers is there to supervise.

The stereoscope was designed to take advantage of the binocular vision capabilities of the human eye and brain. The card with two partially overlapping pictures of an object or scene was viewed through lenses whose distance from the eye could be adjusted so that, at the right spot, a single three-dimensional picture became visible.



Most Victorians used the stereoscope to see the world without leaving their front rooms with stereoscopes from the Holy Land, the just-built Panama Canal, the Alps, Rome, and the great national parks of the United States.

Some of the cards in our collection

(basket at right) show the ruins of Pompeii, the Sphinx, India's royal palace, German castles, Japan, Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and streets scenes of Oregon cities.

If you have any of these in the attic, consider donating them to the society to augment our collection.

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Words from the bookshop

A few good words about another good book by Booth

By Dorothy Francis

In his "Until the Last Arrow," Percy T. Booth has given us over 450 pages of detailed accounts of the Rogue Valley's Indian wars.

These started in 1851 when the discovery of gold was bringing a new world and way of life to the Native Americans who had lived here for centuries. These newcomers were arriving with animals that had eaten the grass on the way from the Mississippi. They were also bringing loose stock that ate grass wherever they walked. So the coming of a few thousand people to the Rogue Valley was causing distress to many Americans already established here. And tensions mounted.

The warring then, as now, was never conducted in a gentlemanly fashion. Percy describes the happenings in his flowing and inimitable style.

There are many nuggets of information for the reader. I culled out a few I found interesting:

1. Mount McLoughlin was called Snowy Butte even before it was named Mount Pitt, which it was still called in the late 1930s and still is by some of us.

2. The Knotts house near Canyonville was the first home to be used for a fort during these wars.

3. Bear Creek was first called Stuart Creek, named for an early victim of the period.

4. Lloyd Rollins, the father of Josephine (our county's namesake), could crack a bullwhip over a pair

of oxen so it would sound like a pistol shot.

The first invasion of the Table Rock area by the U.S. Military to protect white settlers and those travelling through was led by Major Philip Kearney.

The Major Kearney story is well told early in the book. For his sojourn into Rogue Country, he came down from Vancouver at the head of a company of dragoons and a company of riflemen. "With him were Captain James Stuart, Captain J.G. Walker, Lieutenant C.E. Irvine. His scouts were William Green T'Vault and Levi Scott and his surveyor was Jesse Applegate who joined the company at Yoncalla."

The book tells about the wonderful people on both sides of the battles, who did what they thought was best for their people. There's a fine story and description of Chief John and many others, for example. And the volume ends when a 94-year-old woman of the Yoki (Euchre) Creek Tribe is asked "Where are the old chiefs buried?" When she gets around to answering, she says "Who knows? Who knows?"

The book has many historical pictures besides the word pictures that make the book so vivid.

As many of you know, Percy Booth died in 1991, leaving the completed manuscript and photos behind. His son, Dick Booth, who is also an author, has now started his own publishing company, B&B Publishing, which produced "Until the Last Arrow."

It is available at the society's bookshop for \$19.95.

The following excerpt is quoted from Captain Edward Ord's report on the journey as he escorted Chief Limpey and Chief George and their people to Fort Ord and the Siletz Reservation after the peace treaty.

"We marched down river 2 mi. & turned up a steep hill. Rather rough on the old squaws. One old fellow and his blind wife already behind. Poor old woman begins to fall down before we begin to climb mountain and she broke down completely short distance up. Went and got horse. Old squaw fell off. I then took her in front of me. Pretty hard to stand it. Gave up my mule to lame girl and broken down squaw. Girl quite childishly happy; first time; maybe in her life she has had much kindness shown her."

*-excerpt from
"Until the Last Arrow"
by Percy T. Booth*

The ballot

Here's the ballot for officers, executive committee and directors at large for the coming year of the Josephine County Historical Society.

Please fill out the ballot snip this page out and mail it to the society, 508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 96526. Of course, you are free to drop it off in person at the society office.

Notice that the bookshop chair and the exhibits chair have no candidates; if you might be interested in one of these positions, please call Rose Scott, the society's executive director.

The deadline for ballots to reach the society — either by mail or dropped off in person — is 4 p.m. Nov. 14.

OFFICERS

President elect:

- ☐ Mel Shaw
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Treasurer:

- ☐ Barbara Smith
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Secretary:

- ☐ Jean Boling
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

(Vote for 14)

- ☐ John Ahlstrom
- ☐ Bernie Martin Beck
- ☐ Judy Boling
- ☐ Tom Bristol
- ☐ Jim Clark
- ☐ Edith Decker
- ☐ Dawne Fox
- ☐ Dorothy Francis
- ☐ Sherm Heater
- ☐ Bob Lane
- ☐ Marilyn Luttrell
- ☐ Arden McConnell
- ☐ Percy Wetherbee
- ☐ Grace Regester

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Past president Roger Ramsey is automatically on the committee.

Exhibits chair:

- ☐
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Publishing chair:

- ☐ Lee Ann Tardieu
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Publicity chair:

- ☐ Charlie Mitchell
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Program chair:

- ☐ Mollie Means
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Membership chair:

- ☐ Jim Savard
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Volunteer chair:

- ☐ Claudette Pruitt
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Board development chair:

- ☐ William Chunn
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Research library chair:

- ☐ Janet Lane
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Finance chair:

- ☐ Al Tillery
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Historic sites chair:

- ☐ Mike Oaks
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Properties chair:

- ☐ Nancy Campbell
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

Bookshop chair:

- ☐
- ☐ Write-in candidate:

I would like to be a member

Please enroll me as a member in the Josephine County Historical Society. Enclosed are my annual dues of:

- ☐ \$15 (individual)
- ☐ \$25 (family)
- ☐ \$55 (corporate)
- ☐ \$100 (sustaining member)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Mail to:
Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW Fifth St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526

In memorium

The society regrets to inform the membership that the following members of the Josephine County Historical Society have passed away since our last newsletter.

Arthur Van Walk



Doris B. Newman



Joseph John Alessi



Lena Payne

Can you help us grow?

Each month the society membership is decreased on average of 8 to 10 members for the usual variety of reasons. To continue our mission of preserving our community's history, we need to retain a strong membership base.

Do you have a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker who is not a JCHS member? Share the mission — and either invite them to join or give them a membership as a gift for a birthday, anniversary or the holidays.

Use the form at left and help us grow.

THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

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